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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. MERCK-2056

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Hartmann *et al.* CONF. NO.: 2626
SERIAL NO.: 09/708,506 GROUP NO.: 1647
FILING DATE: November 9, 2000 EXAMINER: DeBerry, Regina M.
TITLE: Erythropoietin Forms with Improved Properties

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

The Office action of January 6, 2004, rejected claims 1-5, 10, 11, 13, 16-18, and 24-29. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Applicants enclose a petition and fee for a three-month extension of time to July 6, 2004, for responding to the Office Action. Applicants believe that no other fees are due with this submission. Nevertheless, please consider this a conditional authorization to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.